

Annex D - Local Committee business travel champions

The two main aims of Surrey County Council's large bid to the Dept for Transport's Local Sustainable Transport Fund, are to help drive economic growth and reduce carbon emissions. As part of the proposed package a number of measures have been designed to provide support to the business community to reduce costs and carbon emissions.

In order to maximise the impact of these measures, and to provide businesses with a genuine say in local travel improvements in their area, it is proposed to set up business travel forums in Redhill and Reigate town centres. The forums are an opportunity for local businesses to discuss the impacts of travel on their productivity and to enable both the county and borough council to feedback information on improvements and schemes being delivered as part of the wider Travel SMART programme.

The businesses participating in the business travel forums will directly develop ideas for projects that could be funded by the LSTF. The rationale behind establishing business travel forums in the Travel SMART towns comes as a result of the consultation process prior to submitting the large bid to the DfT where the business community expressed a need for connectivity between neighbouring businesses and for funding to support local projects. Providing businesses with an opportunity to influence improvements to their area both provides the LSTF programme with a localist approach to developing improvements, and will help to deliver improvements that will directly impact positively on businesses.

£50,000 worth of LSTF funding (half revenue and half capital) is available each financial year for three years until 2014/15. Ideas generated by the forum will be presented in the form of a written bid initially to the Task Group who will then make recommendations on what will be submitted to the committee for consideration of approval. The forum will be facilitated by additional support by way of an advisor working alongside the Travel SMART team to help generate discussion and develop ideas and bids.

It is intended that the Travel SMART business forum in Redhill become a part of the Redhill Regeneration Forum. The County Council will lead on the establishment of the Reigate Business Travel Forum, in consultation with the Reigate Business Guild.

It is important that the local committee is represented on the business travel forum to help develop and champion ideas formulated and to understand the priorities of the membership, and therefore we would like to create a 'business travel champion' from a member of the local committee to form part of the forum membership. Whilst we would encourage a chair to come from the business community, we would envisage the local committee member could provide insight into possible improvements as part of and beyond the Travel SMART programme, and develop a cohesive approach to ideas and measures generated from the forum. The business travel champion would take ideas from the group to the LSTF task group. The task group would then decide upon what is to be submitted to Local Committee for consideration for funding.

The current proposal is that groups would meet quarterly, and look to take proposals of capital expenditure to the December local committee, for delivery prior to the end of the financial year.

